



Pettit, Tara &lt;tara\_pettit@nps.gov&gt;

## New Philadelphia

**Hackett Sue** <shackett50@frontier.com>

Tue, Jun 14, 2016 at 8:44 PM

To: "Pettit, Tara" <tara\_pettit@nps.gov>

To: Tara Pettit

From: Sue A. Hackett, NPS ret.

Re: Comments supporting New Philadelphia's inclusion in NPS

[I wasn't able to be at your NPS public hearing in May as I was visiting family in DC area and had a fabulous tour of the recently re-opened Arlington House. My connection with New Phil. Assoc. is probably different than most. Starting in the mid 1990's I began stopping in Barry to visit my husband's cousin on the way from Colorado to Jacksonville, IL- a college town about 40 miles east of Barry. Her sister Pat (husband Marvin) Likes were on the Board of N.P. When the archeological digs began 2006? as I mentioned, Pat would take me out to the site and introduce me to the directors and the college kids would talk about what they were finding etc. Soon I was following all the articles in the media, Archeology magazine etc. Have been an intermittent member of the Association, read the books on Free Frank etc. NPS background at bottom.]

Using the four criteria of the resource study for inclusion in the National Park System as printed in the "Pike Press".

[In my assessment, New Philadelphia is further along in development and information than many historic sites in my experience. Professionals, educators, authors, researchers, historians & graduate students have provided extensive information on the history and use of the village acreage and surroundings. Therefore NPS would not have to fund years of research.]

1. National Significance: Free Frank McWorter was a special man, an example that skin color has nothing to do with intelligence, being enslaved didn't keep him from learning skills from which he earned the money to buy his freedom and later most of his family. His character and determination enabled him to adapt, to become an entrepreneur, owner of land, and to thereby encourage a unique multiracial village to develop. His story would be a wonderful encouragement to children- especially urban black children who might feel their path to advanced education and good jobs blocked by modern social circumstances. Frank's story of starting as a slave and overcoming so many hurdles is a great story.

p.2

After the introduction at the Interpretive Kiosk at N.P. last week, I walked up the mown trail on the village site amidst the tall prairie grasses & native flowers, guided by attractive metal street signs and interpretive signage- one could sense Frank's presence- proud of what he had accomplished so far, hoping more settlers would come to make this a real town. One could also think about the Native Americans who left artifacts in the soil of this hilltop. There is a 360 degree view there. Humans respond to it and are connected to each other. Actual time is compressed.

2. Suitability: N.P. would be a great addition of a site to illustrate Diversity in NPS as well as its unique attribute of being the setting of a bi-racial community in the pioneering era of the settlement of the Midwest 25 years before emancipation. Those same years were turbulent years politically and socially in the United States. So many people moving west for land and gold they hoped. This in turn stirred

up the Native American tribes in their homelands. Central IL had population mixtures of those from New England/abolitionists, those from Kentucky and Tennessee with slave holding backgrounds. Many immigrants from Yorkshire, Eng. wanting good farmland.

As you know, the populous state of Illinois has only one NPS operating site, Lincoln Home, and newly approved Pullman in Chicago in progress so New Phil. would be a good selection, considering Chicago, E. St. Louis and other cities have extensive black populations. New P. could be a school trip destination.

3. Feasibility: I have no knowledge of the land ownership situation.
4. Direct NPS management: I would assume that if N.P. is approved as a unit of NPS, the Supt. at Lincoln Home would have oversight. Perhaps one of their staff would be willing to move to be site manager as well as give training on visitor services, resource security etc. to individuals hired in the Barry/Hannibal/Quincy area. There are several colleges within commuting distance for possible seasonals and volunteers who might give talks at the site.

p.3

# Visitor Accessibility & Tourism: N.P. is wonderfully situated to take advantage of the area Interstate Highways to snare travelers headed to Mark Twain sites in Hannibal & the Lincoln sites in Springfield-both North/South and East West. #55, #72, #70, and the Mississippi Great River Road. There are some fast food restaurants and gas stations in Barry. More in Hannibal, lots in Quincy (pop 41,000), some in Pittsfield, Jacksonville.

#### VITA

Educator: Concord, MA public schools

Master's degree: History & Management of Historic Sites; half of classes for Master's in Public Admin.

NPS experience: Interpretation, Law Enforcement, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Planning. Trainer in Interpretation and Law Enforcement.

\*Old N.E. Region: Minuteman/ Wayside Home; Fire Island Seashore / Wm Floyd Mansion;

\*Mid Atlantic Region: Colonial: Yorktown & Jamestown; Fort Necessity & Friendship Hill; Ft. McHenry and Hampton Mansion; Mather Training Center.

IPA assignment 2 yrs. Consultant to Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission: management & operations evaluations of 24 historic sites.

NPS Volunteer: Gettysburg, North Cascades, PNW. Regional Office, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone.

Local historic sites: Supervisor: Hover Farmstead, Longmont CO; Woodlawn Farm UGRR: planning, Jacksonville, IL.

